IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended) A server capable of communicating with ~~a client and~~ a device, comprising:

first management means for managing information representing an ability of said device;

second management means for managing information representing an ability of a device driver~~, which is executed by the client,~~ for the device;

retrieval condition reception means for receiving~~, from the client,~~ a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

retrieval means for retrieving the device based on the information managed by said first management means, the information managed by said second management means and the retrieval condition received by said retrieval condition reception means; and

~~notification means for notifying the client of~~ output means for outputting a retrieval result obtained by said retrieval means.

2. (previously presented) A server according to claim 1, further comprising:

first reception means for receiving the information representing the ability of the device; and

second reception means for receiving the information representing the ability of the device driver for the device.

3. (currently amended)) A server according to claim 1, further comprising generation means for generating information by coupling the information ~~management~~ managed by said first management means and the information managed by said second management means together.

4. (previously presented) A server according to claim 3, further comprising registration means for registering the information generated by said generation means to a storage unit.

5. (currently amended)) A server according to claim 4[[ ]], further comprising comparison means for comparing the information registered by said registration means with the retrieval condition.[[.]]

6. (currently amended) A server according to claim 1, wherein the retrieval condition includes plural conditions,

wherein said retrieval means compares the information ~~management~~ managed by said first management means, the information managed by said second management means and each condition included in retrieval condition with others, and

wherein said ~~notification~~ output means ~~notifies the client of~~ outputs an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among the plural conditions included in the retrieval condition.

7. (previously presented) A server according to claim 1, wherein the information representing the ability of the device is information concerning any one of

duplex print, N-up print, jobcopy, pagecopy, OHP insertion print, resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.

8. (previously presented) A server according to claim 1, wherein the retrieval by said retrieval means is performed with respect to plural devices.

9. (withdrawn) A client capable of communicating with a server, comprising:

transmission means for transmitting to said server a retrieval condition for selecting a device;

reception means for receiving a retrieval result which is based on the retrieval condition, device ability information and information representing ability of a device driver for the device, and which is expressed in a form for discriminating a function executable by the device driver; and

display control means for causing a display unit to display the retrieval result received by said reception means.

10. (withdrawn) A client according to claim 9, further comprising input means for inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by the retrieval item.

11. (withdrawn) A client according to claim 9, wherein said input means can input a plurality of retrieval items.

12. (withdrawn) A client according to claim 9, wherein said receiving means receives an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in the retrieval condition, and

wherein said display control means allows the adaptivity to be displayed by said display.

13. (withdrawn) A client according to claim 10, wherein the retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

14. (withdrawn) A device capable of communicating with a server, which transmits to a client a retrieval result in response to a retrieval condition sent from the client for retrieving a device, comprising:

first transmission means for transmitting information representing ability of said device to the server; and

second transmission means for transmitting, to the server, information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by said client, for said device.

15. (withdrawn) A device according to claim 14, further comprising:

first storage means for storing the information representing the ability of said device;

second storage means for storing the information representing the ability of the device driver for said device; and

generation means for generating information by coupling the information stored in said first storage means and the information stored in said second storage means together.

16. (withdrawn) A device according to claim 14, further comprising inquiring means for inquiring of an external apparatus about the ability information of the device driver.

17. (withdrawn) A device according to claim 14, wherein the device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.

18. (withdrawn) A device according to claim 14, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid machine, and a scanner.

19. (withdrawn) A device retrieval system for retrieving a device on a network, comprising:

first transmission means for transmitting information representing ability of the device;

second transmission means for transmitting information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by a client, for said device;

third transmission means for transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting said device;

retrieval means for retrieving the device based on the information transmitted by said first transmission means, the information transmitted by said second transmission means and the retrieval condition transmitted by said third transmission means; and

fourth transmission means for transmitting a retrieval result of said retrieval means.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) An information processing method which is executed by a server capable of communicating with ~~a client and~~ a device, comprising:

managing first information representing an ability of ~~said~~ the device;

managing second information representing ability of a device driver~~, which is executed by the client,~~ for ~~said~~ the device;

receiving~~, from the client,~~ a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

~~etrieving~~ retrieving the device based on the first and second information and the received retrieval condition; and

~~notifying the client of~~ outputting a retrieval result of said retrieving step.

22. (currently amended)) A method according to claim 21, further comprising:

receiving the first information representing the ability of the device; and

receiving the second information representing the ability of the device driver for ~~said~~ the device.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, further comprising generating information by coupling the first and second information together.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 23, further comprising registering the information generated in said generating step in a storage unit.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, further comprising comparing the information registered in said registering step with the retrieval condition.

26. (currently amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein the retrieval condition includes plural conditions,

wherein, in said step of retrieving, the first information, the second information and each condition included in the retrieval condition are compared with others, and

wherein in said ~~notifying~~ outputting step ~~notifies the client of~~ includes outputting an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among the plural conditions included in the retrieval condition.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the information representing the ability of the device is information concerning any one of duplex print, N-up print, jobcopy, pagecopy, OHP insertion print, resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the retrieval by said retrieval step is performed with respect to plural devices.

29. (withdrawn) An information processing method which is executed by a client capable of communicating with a server, comprising:

transmitting to said server a retrieval condition for selecting a device;

receiving a retrieval result which is based on the retrieval condition, information representing ability of the device administrated by said server and information representing ability of a device driver for the device, and is which expressed in a form for discriminating a function executable by the device driver; and

controlling display to cause a display unit to display the retrieval result received in said receiving step.

30. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 29, further comprising an input step of inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by the retrieval item.

31. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 29, wherein in said input step, a plurality of retrieval items can be inputted.

32. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 29, wherein, in said receiving step, an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in the retrieval condition is received, and

in said display control step, said adaptivity is displayed by the display.

33. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein the retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

34. (withdrawn) An information processing method which is executed by a device capable of communicating with with a server, which transmits to a client a retrieval result in response to a retrieval condition sent from the client for retrieving a device, comprising:

transmitting first information to the server representing ability of the device; and

transmitting, to said server, second information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by the client, for said device

35. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 34, further comprising:

storing the first information representing the ability of said device;

storing the second information representing the ability of the device driver for said device; and

generating information by coupling the first information and the second information together.

36. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 34, further comprising an inquiring step of inquiring of an external apparatus about the ability information of the device driver.

37. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 34, wherein the device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.

38. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 34, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid machine, and a scanner.

39. (withdrawn) A device retrieval method for retrieving a device on a network, comprising:

transmitting first information representing ability of said device;

transmitting second information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by a client, for the device;

transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

retrieving the device based on the first and second information and the transmitted retrieval condition; and

transmitting a retrieval result of said retrieving step.

40. (canceled)

41. (currently amended) An information processing program which is executed by a server capable of communicating with ~~a client and~~ a device, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

a first managing step of managing first information representing ability of said device;

a second managing step of managing second information representing ability of a device driver~~, which is executed by the client,~~ for ~~said~~ the device;

a receiving step of receiving~~, from the client,~~ a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

a retrieving step of retrieving the device based on the first and second information and the received retrieval condition; and

~~notifying the client of~~ an outputting step of outputting a retrieval result of said retrieving step ~~of retrieving~~.

42. (previously presented) A program according to claim 41, wherein said program allows the computer to execute:

receiving the first information representing the ability of the device; and

receiving the second information representing the ability of the device driver for the device.

43. (previously presented) A program according to claim 41, wherein said program allows the computer to execute a step of generating information by coupling the first information and the second information together.

44. (previously presented) A program according to claim 43, further comprising registering the information generated in said generating step in a storage unit.

45. (previously presented) A program according to claim 44, further comprising comparing the information registered in said registering step with the retrieval condition.

46. (currently amended) A program according to claim 41, wherein the retrieval condition includes plural conditions,

wherein said retrieving step ~~compares~~ includes comparing the first information, the second information and each condition included in the retrieval condition with others, and

wherein said ~~notifying step notifies the client of~~ outputting step includes outputting an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among the plural conditions included in the retrieval condition.

47. (previously presented) A program according to claim 41, wherein the information representing the ability of the device is information concerning any one of

duplex print, N-up print, jobcopy, pagecopy, OHP insertion print, resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.

48. (previously presented) A program according to claim 41, wherein the retrieval by said retrieval step is performed with respect to plural devices.

49. (withdrawn) An information processing program which is executed by a client capable of communicating with a server, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

transmitting step of transmitting to the server a retrieval condition for selecting a device;

receiving step of receiving a retrieval result which is based on the retrieval condition, information managed by the server representing ability of the device and information representing ability of a device driver for the device, and which is expressed in a form for discriminating a function executable by the device driver; and

display controlling step of causing a display unit to display the retrieval result received by said receiving step.

50. (withdrawn) A program according to claim 49, wherein said program allows the computer to execute an input step of inputting a retrieval item and a value which is designated by the retrieval item.

51. (withdrawn) A program according to claim 49, wherein in said input step, a plurality of retrieval items can be inputted.

52. (withdrawn) A program according to claim 49, wherein

in said receiving step, an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among a plurality of conditions included in the retrieval condition is received, and

wherein, in said display controlling step, said adaptivity is displayed by said display.

53. (withdrawn) A program according to claim 50, wherein the retrieval item relates to one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, and a paper size.

54. (withdrawn) An information processing program which is executed by a device capable of communicating with a server, which transmits to a client a retrieval result in response to a retrieval condition sent from said client for retrieving a device, wherein said program allows a computer to execute:

first transmitting step of transmitting information representing ability of said device to said server; and

second transmitting step of transmitting, to the server, information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by the client, for said device.

55. (withdrawn) A program according to claim 54, wherein said program allows the computer to execute:

first storing step of storing the information representing the ability of said device;

second storage step of storing the information representing the ability of the device driver for said device; and

generating step of generating information by coupling the information stored in said first storing step and the information stored in said second storing step together.

56. (withdrawn) A program according to claim 54, wherein said program allows the computer to execute an inquiring step of inquiring of an external apparatus about the ability information of the device driver.

57. (withdrawn) A program according to claim 54, wherein the device information is information regarding one of a duplex print, an N-up print, a jobcopy, a pagecopy, an OHP insertion print, a resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.

58. (withdrawn) A program according to claim 54, wherein said device is one of a printer, a copy machine, a hybrid machine, and a scanner.

59. (withdrawn) A device retrieval program for retrieving a device on a network, comprising:

first transmitting step of transmitting information representing ability of the device;

second transmitting step of transmitting information representing ability of a device driver, which is executed by a client, for the device;

third transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval condition for selecting said device;

retrieving step of retrieving the device based on the information transmitted by said first transmitting step, the information transmitted by said second transmitting step and the retrieval condition transmitted by said third transmitting step; and

fourth transmitting step of transmitting a retrieval result by said retrieving step.

60. to 73. (Canceled)

74. (currently amended) A server according to claim 1, wherein said ~~notification~~ output means ~~notifies the client of~~ outputs the retrieval result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the retrieval by said retrieval means.

75. (currently amended) A server according to claim 1, wherein said ~~notification~~ output means ~~notifies the client of~~ outputs the retrieval result in a form for

discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the retrieval by said retrieval means.

76. (currently amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein said retrieving step ~~retrieves~~ includes retrieving the device for which at least one of the ability of said device and the ability of the device driver satisfies the retrieval condition.

77. (currently amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein said ~~notifying~~ outputting step ~~notifies the client of~~ includes outputting the retrieval result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the retrieval in said retrieval step.

78. (currently amended) A program according to claim 41, wherein said retrieving step ~~retrieves~~ includes retrieving the device for which at least one of the ability of said device and the ability of the device driver satisfies the retrieval condition.

79. (currently amended) A program according to claim 41, wherein said ~~notifying~~ outputting step ~~notifies said client of~~ includes outputting the retrieval result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the retrieval in said retrieving step.